

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /093 W
-----035745 241102Z /11

O R 240907Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7927
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION GENEVA
USINT HAVANA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO
USICA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KHARTOUM 3330

DEPT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

RABAT FOR ASST SECY MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, OAU, SS
SUBJECT: OAU SUMMIT: WESTERN SAHARA

REF: (A) KHARTOUM 3215, (B) ANTANANARIVO 1341 (NOTAL)

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SUMMARY: ATTENDANCE AT OAU SUMMIT BY ALGERIAN PRES.
HOUARI BOUMEDIENNE AND HIS HIGH-POWERED FOREIGN MINISTER
BOUTEFLIKA, ENSURED THAT WESTERN SAHARA QUESTION WOULD BE
DISCUSSED AT SUMMIT. DURING OPENING SPEECHES NUMBER OF
MEMBERS EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR POLISARIO MOVEMENT AND SAHARA
ARAB DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (SADR). DEBATE OF AGENDA ITEM
SEEMED TO SPLIT ALONG RADICAL/MODERATE LINES, ENDING

INCONCLUSIVELY. RESOLUTIONS WHICH WERE ADOPTED REFLECT MODERATE POSITION WITH NO RECOGNITION FOR POLISARIO, BUT SOME SLIGHT GAINS FOR ALGERIANS FROM LAST YEAR.
END SUMMARY

1. MADAGASCAR PRES. DIDIER RATSIRAKA DELIVERED LENGTHY SPEECH JULY 19, WHICH SOME OBSERVERS SUSPECT WAS WRITTEN BY ALGERIA, ON HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF POLISARIO (1966-78) AND LEGAL BASIS FOR SADR. MOROCCAN DELEGATION PROTESTED FROM FLOOR BUT WAS RULED OUT OF ORDER. IT WAS LATER RELIABLY REPORTED THAT 6-MAN POLISARIO DELEGATION, LED BY SADR FONMIN HAKIM BRAHIM, HAD ARRIVED IN KHARTOUM DURING EARLY MORNING HOURS OF JULY 20.

2. AMONG SUCCEEDING SPEAKERS, CONGO DELEGATION LEADER CALLED FOR SUPPORT OF POLISARIO, AS DID SWAPO, MOZAMBIQUE ("WE SHALL WELCOME INDEPENDENT W. SAHARA AMONG US."), ANGOLA ("TO POLISARIO, WHICH IS FIGHTING A POLITICO-MILITARY STRUGGLE"), SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE ("WE GRANT DE JURE RECOGNITION TO SADR.") AND ETHIOPIA ("SHOULD BE GIVEN RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ALL RELEVANT OAU AND UN RESOLUTIONS"). MOROCCO EXERCISED ITS RIGHT OF REPLY TO REJECT ANY RECOGNITION OF POLISARIO.

3. DEBATE OF W. SAHARA AGENDA ITEM BEGAN EVENING JULY 21 AND PROCEEDED UNTIL 3/00 A.M., WITH MANY SPEAKERS AWAITING
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THEIR TURNS. RATHER THAN PROLONG DISCUSSION, COTE WAS TAKEN TO END DEBATE AND WAS PASSED 26-16, INDICATING MODERATES STILL HELD MAJORITY OF VOTES. BECAUSE OF WIDE DIFFERENCES ON ISSUES MOST BASIC TO RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM, IT DOES NOT NOW APPEAR THAT OAU ITSELF WILL HAVE MUCH SUCCESS IN MAKING PROGRESS ON ISSUE.

4. COMETING RESOLUTIONS ON W. SAHARA WERE SUBMITTED BY MALI, WHICH PROPOSED FORMATION OF A "COMPROMISE COMMITTEE", AND MOZAMBIQUE, WHICH PROPOSED RECOGNITION OF POLISARIO AS SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SAHARA PEOPLE. SUMMIT WAS ABLE TO ADOPT 7-POINT CONSENSUS RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

(A) REAFFIRMS RESPONSIBILITY OF OAU IN FINDING JUST AND PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO WESTERN SAHARA QUESTION IN CONFORMITY WITH PRINCIPLES OF OAU AND U.N. CHARTERS;

(B) REAFFIRMS ITS DECISION TO CONVENE AN EXTRA-ORDINARY SUMMIT TO DEAL WITH QUESTION OF W. SAHARA;

(C) DECIDES TO THAT END TO CREATE AN AD HOC COMMITTEE COMPRISED OF AT LEAST 5 OAU HEADS OF STATE, INCLUDING CURRENT OAU CHAIRMAN PRES. NIMIERI, ENTRUSTED TO STUDY ALL THE FACTS ON THE QUESTION OF W. SAHARA, INCLUDING EXERCISE OF RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY TO SELF-

DETERMINATION, AND TO SUBMIT REPORT TO EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT;

(D) CHARGES CURRENT OAU CHAIRMAN TO CARRY OUT CONSULTATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, IN RESPECT TO THE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED OAU COLLECTIVE.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KHARTOUM 3330

DEPT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

RABAT FOR ASST SECY MOOSE

COMPOSITION AND MEETING OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE;

(E) REQUESTS ALL STATES AND PARTIES IN THE REGION
TO REFRAIN FROM ANY ACTION LIKELY TO UNDERMINE THE SEARCH
FOR A JUST AND PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO QUESTION;

(F) REQUIRES THAT OAU ADMIN. SEC. GEN. SUBMIT A REPORT
TO 32ND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (FEB 79) ON DEVELOPMENT OF
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QUESTION;

(G) REQUIRES OAI ADMINSEC GEN TO BRING PRESENT
PROVISIONS TO ATTENTION OF UN SEC GEN, WHICH SHOULD BE
SEIZED WITH PROBLEMS OF DECOLONIZATION IN W. SAHARA.

5. MOROCCAN P.M. AHMED OSMAN WAS QUOTED AS "WELCOMING"
SUMMIT'S RESOLUTION AND IDEA OF FORMING COMMITTEE UNDER
PRES. NIMEIRI AS "BEST REMEDY FOR PROBLEM." MAURITANIAN
FONMIN MOHAMMED OULD SKEIKHNA (ACCORDING TO SUDAN NEWS
AGENCY) STATED CONVENING OF SPECIAL SUMMIT WOULD ENABLE
AFRICA TO ARRIVE AT SUITABLE SOLUTION.

6. COMMENT: SUMMIT RESOLUTIONS SEEM TO BE BALANCED
COMPROMISE, WHICH MEET MOROCCAN NEEDS OF DEFERRING PROBLEM
AND NOT RECOGNIZING POLISARIO, BUT ALSO RECOGNIZE ALGERIAN
POSITION THAT W. SAHARA IS STILL QUESTION OF DECOLONIZATION
(RES. G). RESOLUTION F ALSO FULFILLS ALGERIAN DESIRE TO
MAINTAIN PRESSURE WITHIN OAU ON QUESTION. ALGERIA APPEARS
TO HAVE ERODED THE MOROCCAN/MAURITANIAN POSITION SOMEWHAT
SINCE LAST YEAR, BUT WAS STILL NOT ABLE TO HAVE POLISARIO
DELEGATE SPEAK AT SUMMIT. FROM OTHER REPORTING, IT APPEARS
THAT NEGOTIATING EFFORTS AMONG THE INVOLVED PARTIES
MAY OVERTAKE OAU ATTEMPTS TO RESOLVE PROBLEM. (N.B.
THIRTEEN AFRICAN STATES CURRENTLY RECOGNIZE SADR,
THEY ARE: ALGERIA, ANGOLA, BENIN, BURUNDI, CAPE-VERDE,
GUINEA-BISSAU, MADAGASCAR, MOZAMBIQUE, RWANDA, SAO TOME
AND PRINCIPE, SEYCHELLES, TANZANIA AND TOGO.)
BERGUS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED OAU COLLECTIVE.

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Message Attributes

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